

TESTING TIME FOR WYCOMBE

AFTER a rather comfortable first friendly against Atherstone on Tuesday, Wycombe Wanderers face more thorough testings from their next two opponents — North Shields and second division Oxford United tomorrow (Saturday) and Monday.

Tomorrow's opponents, North Shields, are one of the top amateur clubs in the North and many will remember their Amateur Cup final appearance against Sutton United in the 68/69 season. They ran out 2-1 winners on that day.

Their side appears to be brim full of talent with a mixture of youth and experience. They have managed to keep together four of their cup winning side, one of them being 'keeper Mick Morgan, in his seventh season with the club, Morgan is a Northumberland County player.

Malcolm Harper, only 19, has been interesting the pro' clubs up north while another man with plenty of experience is Alan Driver, in his seventh year with the club and one of the cup winning team.

ENGLAND CAP

Bill Heron is a new signing from Durham City while Shields will be strengthened by the

arrival of Tony Rosethorne from Tow Law. Rosethorne has represented England, Middlesex Wanderers and Durham County.

One of the best prospects is Joe Graham, in his second season with the club. Longest serving player is skipper Ron Tatum, one of the cup winners and a county representative. Ron has been with Shields for 11 years.

Their main striking force comes from George Brown an England international and one of the leading goalscorers in the Northern League over the last few seasons. Alan Young has been signed from West Auckland while Dave and John Rutherford are England and Scots caps respectively.

All in all they present a strong challenge and a severe test for a Wycombe Wanderers side that could try out as many as eight new players. Only one of the newcomers is unavailable, Dillon Evans, top scorer for Cheltenham in the Southern League last term. Evans takes up a teaching job at Uxbridge next month.

Oxford United have named a side with four regular first teamers to face the Blues on Monday — Steve Aylott, Derek Clarke, Geoff Bray and Ken Skeen.

Kevin Thomas, Jimmy Knight and Nick Lowe came into the senior team on a few occasions and the remainder of the side is made up of reserve players.

The full squad is: Kevin Thomas, Jimmy Knight, Steve Slay, Steve Aylott, Rod Smithson, Nick Lowe, Jimmy

Campbell, Bill Jeffrey, Derek Clarke, Geoff Bray, Ken Skeen, Ray Picket and Peter Hatch.

United's results so far this term include a 3-1 win at Coventry and a goalless draw at home to Walsall.

Wanderers will be hoping Ian Rundle and Rob Williams will be fit while veteran Tony Horseman, recently back from holiday, could also be in line for a game. All those who played in the 3-1 win against Atherstone should be available plus one more new face in Peter Anderson, who was with Dagenham last year.